Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

E

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.28.03152

Fayette Iowa Aug 8th 31

Mrs. Howard K. Tilney
9528 Wisteria St
Bustleton
Philadelphia
Penn

Dear Sir Your letter recieved Glad to hear that you are collecting Letters from those that had seen and heard Ans Abraham. I am the First White Child born in Freeport Ill March 10th 1838 I was in my 20th year when I saw and heard Lincoln and Douglas Debate. On page 146 Freeports Lincoln Published by W. T. Rawleigh of Freeport You will see a letter that I wrote. Rawleigh would be pleased to send you a Copy I have just returned from State Hospital at Iowa City The oldest Inmates operated on in that Hospital (I'm my 93 year) and have to go the last of this month for final operation Not in shape to do much Writing. My First Vote in Nov 1860 was for Ans Abraham I Served 3 years in Civil War.

Respt Yours
J J Earle

Elson, Mr. Richard Waynesburg, Ohio
Bayard, Ohio
on way to inaug.

The Sandy Valley Press
PAUL H. WILLIAMS Pub.
WAYNESBURG, OHIO
28 TH YEAR
JOB PRINTING

August 27, 1932

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen :-

I am enclosing clipping of article which appeared in our weekly paper underdate of August 25, 1932.

This morning the writer was called on the phone by Miss Etta Elson, daughter of Mr. Richard Elson of this village and advised that her father xxx went to Bayard Ohio (12 miles east of this village) at the time that Lincoln went tru on the way to his inauguration and that at that time he came to the back of the train and gave a short talk to those present.

Mr. Elson was 85 last May.

Hoping that the writer might be advised to the receipt of this letter so that the Elson can in turn be thanked by your group.

Very truly yours,

Engel, Helen Virginia

WALTER B. BEALS, JUDGE

The Supreme Court

State of Washington

Olympia

December 8, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren
c/o Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Some time since, I happened to learn that the father of a very fine young lady here in Olympia lived in Illinois in the early days and knew something about Lincoln. I requested Miss Helen V. Engel to write out what her father remembered about Lincoln and I enclose a copy of what she wrote.

Of course, the old story about the lawyer telling his client to make his get-away through an open window has been told on almost every famous lawyer for the last hundred years, including Ben Butler and many others. Of course, it might have happened in Lincoln's case too. Whether or not the other two anecdotes are of any interest, I don't know. Douglass's remark may or may not be authentic. Of course, Mr. Engel knows of it only by hearsay. The first anecdote is undoubtedly true. In any event, I am forwarding you a copy of Mr. Samuel H. Engel's recollections.

Best regards.

Very sincerely,

Walter B. Beals

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http://archive.org/details/meetinglincolnelinc

LINCOLN, as told by my father, Samuel H. Engel, Olympia, Washington

By Helen Virginia Engel

"I was only born in 1859 so I am much too young a man to have known Lincoln," tells father with a twinkle in his eye. "But," he continues, "I heard so much about him from my folks it seems I knew him." And father's stories unfold:

My grandfather, Peter Engel, came from Alsace-Lorraine in 1830 and settled close to Hanover (later named Metamora), Illinois. Grandfather and grandmother had a little boy with them, their son, likewise a Peter Engel. A Bavarian family coming over on the same ship, by the name of Naufsinger, had a little girl with them, Barbara. When little Peter grew up and little Barbara grew up, they married, and I am the direct result.

There was no lodging house in the town and, since grandfather had lots of room, and apparently set a good table, our place became a stop-over for travelers. That is how Abraham Lincoln came into the Engel lives, for he always stopped the night when, as a young lawyer circuit rider, he tried cases in nearby Metamora and other towns. But before I tell any stories on Lincoln, let me tell you one he told on us. I heard it from Asa Andrews of Washington, Illinois, years and years later. Herewith:

My people were of Amish faith. They were conservative in everything, including conversation. On this particular stop-over of Lincoln's, he was going over some papers in the front room, said room being reserved for visitors. The door opened and a man came in, then another, and another. Possibly a nod, but no real greeting from any. They kept coming until there was quite a gathering. All quiet, all without conversation, and all very, very stern and solemn, or so told Lincoln. He also told that they made him most uneasy, and he began to wonder if he himself was about to be tried. Could they be Klansmen or night riders? He became fearful of the strangeness of it all -- and was most relieved when grandfather Engel came in, walked to the mantel, and took down the Bible. It was Amish prayer meeting night! Lincoln told that one on himself -- or was it on us.

They say Lincoln was generous. One story my father used to tell bears this out. They were holding court when a shabby fellow was brought in charged with horse stealing. The judge asked him if he had a defense counsel and he said "No." Lincoln was sitting on the sidelines, and the judge said, "Abe, you aren't doing anything, take this man and maybe you can clear him." Lincoln took the prisoner into the back of the court room, apparently for conference. It was a hot summer day, the window was up. Lincoln says "See that window? See that wood lot beyond? Well, clear out." He then returned to the court. "Where is your prisoner," asked the judge. "You told me maybe I could clear him, your Honor." "Well," asked the judge. "I did," Lincoln replied. Yes, he was generous.

The Lincoln-Douglas debate was held in the John Page grove about a mile from our farm in 1858. That was the year before I was born, but it was such a big event and talked of for such a long time after that it almost seems I was there. Both the orators spoke from the same platform - a lumber wagon. After the debate, a group of several complimented Douglas on what a fine speech he had made. "Thank you," he said, "That is very kind of you. But that gentleman standing over there will be your next President." And he pointed to Abraham Lincoln.

Escott, Mrs. Prudence

Havana, Ill.
Dinner at Walkers

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Grand Rapids, Michigan
October 27, 1932.

Dr. Louis A. Warren:-
Director Lincoln national life foundation
Dear Sir:-

Having seen the write up in the Grand Rapids Press, about the people in Michigan, who remember having seen Abraham Lincoln, - I thait I'd write about my having seen him.

When I was only a young girl, I sat on Lincolns lap and also ate dinner with him at ~~Lay~~ Lawyer Walkers home in Havana, Illinois, Mason County, It was at the time of his Inaugural speeches. In the after noon

Escott, Mrs , Mich.

every one met at a park near my fathers home, fifteen or sixteen miles from Lincolns old home at Springfield Ill. where he made a speech. I've seen that home many times.

I am now eighty seven years old. My name at that time was Prudence Hill. My husband, Henry Escott, also fought in the Civil War and died from results of the war.

I hope this will be of interest to you.

Sincerely.

Mrs. Prudence Escott
per. mrs. Keen.

764 Graceland St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Escatt, Mrs. Prudence

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Evans, George W.

Washington, D. C.
Soldier - B.& O. R.R.

Spring Mill, Pa.

Spring Mill.
Montgomery Co. Penna
July 21st. 1931

Howard K. Kerry Esq.

In answer to your favor of June 29th. 31- I beg leave to state, would have come to you sooner, only for sickness (personal) I am now an Old Man- next birthday will bring me to 87- 1st 138th Pa. Vols Co. A. Sworn into Service of U.S. Aug. 16th 1862, at Harrisburg Pa Stationed at Relay House, 7 miles below Baltimore (Hd Qrs). Guarded Washington Branch Baltimore & Ohio R.R. for some months, as far South as Anapolis Junction- Joined Army of Potomac After Gettysburgh, at Frederick City Md. and formed part of 3d Corp. 3 Div. 2nd Brigade - Corps Commander Major Gen. French, Div. Comm'd General Ricketts, Brigade Com'd Gen'l.

I saw Mr. Lincoln Often, while doing duty, on B & O. R. Rod, We would Often make up Small Parties and go down to Washington D. C. - it was free Rides for all Soldiers - On B & O. Lines - Mr. Lincoln was always genial to Soldiers - He visited the Army Often (Unofficially) Especially after the Seige of Petersburg Va.

was underway. The Army of the Potomac had driven Lee out of the "Wilderness", out of Spottsylvania C.H. out of the environs of Cold Harbor, and forced him to take shelter in Petersburg, Va. where it took over 1 year to dislodge him. (Some fighting) — I had "lots" of relatives in this Army (Less) I'm very proud of my "Army Record" Any information I can give you will be done very gladly. Just ask me the questions and I'll answer to the best of my ability —

Very Respectfully
Yours to Command
George H. Evans
(late) Private Co. "A" 138th N.Y.
2nd Brigade 3rd Div. 6th Corps.
"Army of the Potomac"

~~Lincoln, Mrs. Robert~~ Evans, W.A. Washington and Springfield Chicago, Ill.

A-7 5M 4-31

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

TRIBUNE SQUARE

HOW TO KEEP WELL DEPARTMENT

W. A. EVANS, M. D.

CHICAGO Mar 16-1932

Dear Mr Terry.

There are very few people living who can accurately remember anything about Abraham Lincoln that is based on their own experience or contact with the Lincoln personally. Mrs Robt Lincoln said to me once what often when as Miss Mary Harlan she visited the White House. Mr F. T. Hillegas

of Selma Ala - the son of Mrs Lincoln's half Sister - has a hazy recollection of one incident. To this I allude. Mr Weldon of Springfield was a friend of Dad's in his early youth. He has an invitation to a party given by Mrs Lincoln to the two younger [illegible]. The sentiments of Dad Lincoln's family [illegible] more contact than Mr Weldon as you [illegible] from her book.

[illegible] of the people whom I visited because they [illegible] Lincoln died & when the time I visited them and the date of my book [illegible] Mrs Lincoln's [illegible] visited

A-7 5M 4-31

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

TRIBUNE SQUARE

CHICAGO

HOW TO KEEP WELL DEPARTMENT

W. A. EVANS, M. D.

(as well as in Springfield)
in the White House. She died more a year
ago. Mr Smith of Springfield died a little
earlier. He was one of Robert's playmates in
Springfield. Mrs Lincoln has a niece in
Springfield Mrs E.B. Keys daughter of
Levi Todd. She knew Mrs Lincoln well
enough but if she knew Lincoln at all
it was faintly. She did not get to Springfield
until after the Lincolns left. although

Lincoln visited in his father's home in Lexington
She probably did not know him. She probably
was not home when he was there. I visited
Mr Lincoln's biographer in Springfield, he who was
a clerk in the law office. But he too is dead
now. He remembered more about Mrs Lincoln
than he did about her husband because
Mr Lincoln was never in Springfield after Feb
1861 whereas Mrs Lincoln was there much of
the time on to July 1882.
I have visited Mother's grave, Judge Bradwell and
other known persons but that was before I became
interested

Yours Lois Taylor